

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously presented): A method to structure and manage a configuration of an industrial product, taking into account selected options, comprising:

describing a set of technical objects, each technical object either representing a product function or describing an implementation method for making a product configuration, the set of technical objects representing manufacturing options of the industrial product;

updating a definition of each technical object and of its inter-relations with other of the technical objects in the product configuration, said definition being stored in a database and comprising an expression of rules and constraints; and

interactively and dynamically using said database during said configuration of the product.

Claim 2 (Original): A method according to claim 1, wherein each technical object represents either a function of an aircraft or describes an implementation method of the aircraft function to create an aircraft configuration.

Claim 3 (Previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the method operations use:

a knowledge management module;

a contract management module;

an administration module; and

a mass management module.

Claim 4 (Original): A method according to claim 3,
wherein the knowledge management module is configured to manage technical
objects each representing an aircraft function,
wherein the contract management module is configured to manage fleet
configurations of aircraft;
wherein the administration module is configured to manage user profiles, and
wherein the mass management module is configured to manage mass of a customized
configuration from data supplied from the contract management module.

Claim 5 (Original): A method according to claim 1, wherein the industrial product is
considered as a set of functions in a functional approach.

Claim 6 (Original): A method according to claim 3, wherein the contract
management module works in a connected or disconnected mode.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein a technical
object oriented configuration is used in which the product function and corresponding
implementation methods are selected directly in a list sorted by at least one of ATA chapter,
job category, or sales policy, the selection being made either individually or globally using a
global procedure that joins a possible application and a weight to a set of options in a same
functional domain.

Claim 8 (Original): A method according to claim 1, wherein a functional oriented
configuration is used that supplies a functional approach to directly select technical objects,
specifying required properties of a functional characteristic.

Claim 9 (Previously presented): A method according to claim 3, wherein the contract management module is configured to start a configuration checking process at any time.

Claim 10 (Previously presented): A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of using a knowledge management module.

Claim 11 (Previously presented): A method according to claim 10, wherein the knowledge management module is configured to manage technical objects each representing an aircraft function.

Claim 12 (Previously presented): A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of using a contract management module.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): A method according to claim 12, wherein the contract management module is configured to manage fleet configurations of aircraft.

Claim 14 (Previously presented): A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of using an administration module.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): A method according to claim 14, wherein the administration module is configured to manage user profiles.

Claim 16 (Previously presented): A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of using a mass management module.

Claim 17 (Previously presented): A method according to claim 16, wherein the mass management module is configured to manage mass of a customized configuration from data supplied from a contract management module.

Claim 18 (New): A method to structure and manage a fleet of vehicles, comprising:
describing a plurality of sets of technical objects, each of said sets representing manufacturing options for a vehicle in said fleet, and each technical object either representing a vehicle function or describing an implementation method for making a vehicle configuration; and

updating, for each of said sets, a definition of each technical object and its inter-relations with other technical objects in that set, said definition being stored in a dynamic database and comprising an expression of rules and constraints.

Claim 19 (New): The method of claim 18, wherein said fleet comprises aircrafts.

Claim 20 (New): The method of claim 18, wherein said fleet comprises helicopters.

Claim 21 (New): The method of claim 18, wherein said fleet comprises automobiles.

Claim 22 (New): The method of claim 19, wherein the functions or implementation methods corresponding to the vehicles are selected individually or globally from a list of ATA chapter, job category, or sales policy.

Claim 23 (New): The method of claim 18, further comprising:
updating said fleet by adding or removing a vehicle; and

managing a plurality of fleets and updating the plurality of fleets when a vehicle is transferred from one fleet to another fleet.

Claim 24 (New): The method of claim 13, wherein the contract management module is further configured to update said fleet configurations by adding or removing an aircraft.

Claim 25 (New): A method according to claim 1, wherein said industrial product is an aircraft.